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**FACSIMILE Message for Fax-Phone-Number: 001 (703) 305 7687
to the attention of Mr. Stephen Vu, Patent Examiner, Technology Center 3600**

Ref.: Office Action of 10/23/02 and Interview on 01/07/03

US-Application Number: ~~61/234,112~~ Filing Date: 04/19/2001, Art Unit: 3636
Confirmation Number: 5923, Inventor: Gisela Schon

Dear Mr. Vu,

thank you for the time you took for the telephonic interview on Jan 7, 2003 in reference to which I have received your interview summary of Jan 9, 2003. In this context I would like to ask two questions:

First question, subject: claims 12-33:

Is it correct to **renumber all the claims** again into 34-55 even in case I just wish to alter some of the claims, but mainly the present claim 12? (to meet the requirements of the USPTO in reference to prior art discussed: Deeley, Jr.)

Second question, subject: translation of specification:

What kind of translation is requested by the USPTO: a **literal** translation or a **true** translation?

In the Office Action Summary (4.) you require "A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English". Yet I was informed by the American Patent Attorney, that my (former) German Patent Attorney works together with, (a German Patent Attorney is not allowed to represent clients before the USPTO) that the USPTO requires a **literal (word-for-word)** translation. This information was obviously wrong. Just one example: While I wanted to use "seatpan" as a translation for the German term "Sitzfläche", this American Patent Attorney expressly advised me to use "sitting surface", because she considered this term to be **more literal**!

Being informed by you, that you require a substitute specification "in proper idiomatic English", I asked two translation offices for advice (one Austrian, one British, both familiar with translations of patent matter from German into English). Both offices use the term "**true** translation" for this kind of translation, but this means that the existing **literal** translation is wrong and has to be revised. (A revision of an existing translation is less expensive than a completely new translation.)

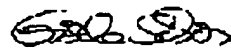
Yet the main problem will remain: several sentences and phrases of the original German specification are "not in proper idiomatic German", and as a result these sentences and phrases make as little sense in any kind of English translation as they do in the German original. For example, during the interview we spoke about "eine Art Damensitz oder eine Art Herrensitz" (page 8, line 2).

To find a way out of this predicament, my idea is, to have an **all new translation** "in proper idiomatic English" made (by one of the above mentioned offices) **just for those sentences**, which do not make sense in either language.

In this context I would like to ask a great favor of you: Is it possible, that you let me know those terms and sentences, that you personally find totally unacceptable? I could attach the present literal translation to an email as a Microsoft Word file, then you could just underline the first word of the sentences in question and send this file back to me via return email.

Dear Mr. Vu, please help me and please take into consideration, that I am not to blame for the situation, because on the one hand I received a wrong information from my Patent Attorney in reference to the kind of translation required, on the other hand my German Patent Attorney is not able to write in proper idiomatic German. I will give you a call to learn your answer.

Best regards


Gisela Schon

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